

**Secure Commonwealth Panel
Education Working Group Meeting
Tuesday, November 4, 2008 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING December 2, 1:30-3:30pm at Virginia Fire Programs

Attendance: Wanda Willis, JD Jenkins, Mark Allen, Kay Goss, Susan Mongold, Linda Rubin, Ralph Swisher, Ron Gird, Bill Sammler, Mark Buff

ACTION ITEMS

Item	Person(s) Responsible
Collect VDEM threat/risk information	Susan
Collect threat information from Citizen Corp	Kay to provide Susan contact Susan to collect information
Provide threat/risk information from NOAA	Ron & Bill
Identify existing dates targeted for preparedness	ALL send to Susan Kay to Google too

Discussion

Billy Shelton, Director of Virginia Fire Programs, opened the meeting with a welcome and background on prevention. In recent years the emphasis for fire programs has shifted from suppression to prevention. While putting out a fire will always be the duty of fire programs, getting the word out on how to prevent a fire and how to escape a fire will save lives. A current initiative of VFP is to get the fire code changed to requiring sprinkler systems in residential construction.

After member introductions, there was discussion to clarify the ultimate goal of this working group. That goal was defined as:

By June 2009 to recommend to the Secure Commonwealth Panel a legislation proposal or other course of action that will incorporate all hazards emergency preparedness education for K-5 graders in Virginia.

Discussion on how to achieve this goal centered on the following issues:

1. Should the expectation be this education is taught by the teacher or by guest teachers?
The working group feels that both options need to be developed.
2. If a teacher in-service on teaching preparedness in the classroom was developed, could the in-service receive continuing education points so the teacher could count the additional training as part of their annual recertification requirements? DOE commented that while the locality will determine if the course content is appropriate for recertification, the program could be run through a university's outreach and assigned CE points.
3. What resources are available to provide guest teachers throughout Virginia?
 - a. Recent VFP survey shows that 30% of the fire departments have a person who is available to provide school education

- b. CERT volunteers could be trained (already trained on many aspects of preparedness)
 - c. Extension service in localities could be part of this effort (already have EDEN – Extension Disaster & Emergency Network)
 - d. Fire Corps – could be expanded to other localities
- 4. While many products exist, this working group would recommend that
 - a. All existing education products be gathered under one banner (ReadyVA)
 - b. Multi-media products may need to be developed (5 minute digital video) that would give the teacher SOL linked segments of information to use throughout the school year in different topics (ie – tornados taught as part of science, making a escape map of the home as part of mapping in math).
- 5. The content of “what does a 5th grader need to know about preparedness” needs to be detailed before the working group can address the issues above.

To identify the content the working group recommended that NOAA, VDEM and the Citizen Corp (federal level) provide information on the threats to Virginia (fire, tornado, hurricane, etc), the death rate, injury rate and property damage. This information will be collated over the coming month and the working group will use it to develop the content at the December meeting. Susan will compile this prior to the December meeting.

Based on the discussions of the working group, for each content area we would need to compile a minimum of:

Item	Example (<i>Susan made this up to give some structure for the next meeting ☺</i>)
Content to be taught	A 5 th grader will know the contents of an emergency kit to keep in the home
Associated threat	Hurricane, Flood
Threat level to Virginia (risk)	Frequency of event, severity of event, etc
Associated SOLs	Link content to as many SOLs as appropriate
Existing education materials	ReadyVA
Multi-media materials to support teacher	Develop video with a child/parent shopping & putting kit together
Guest speaker support for teacher	CERT volunteer
Calendar of preparedness events	Teach content during September to link with SOL and Hurricane month

In addition, the group felt that developing a calendar of preparedness would be a useful tool for all teachers. Teachers could not only tie curriculum to the SOLs but to the various preparedness day/week/month (Sept – Hurricane Month). All members will send to Susan any information they have on annual preparedness events and Kay will Google for dates.